

continues his journey here at the Capitol working for Congressman DAN MEUSER.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing Peter Eibert for his service to Virginia's First District and the Nation. May God bless Peter as he continues his career in public service.

# HONORING THE WORK AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF CARLOS LEJNIEKS

## HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, today, I join with my colleagues, Representatives DEAN PHILIPS, DEBORAH ROSS, and SETH MAGAZINER, to celebrate the extraordinary career and accomplishments of Carlos Lejnieks, the first Latino person to ever be elected President of the Brown University Alumni Association. Though his tenure as President may be coming to a close, the important work he does in and for the community will undoubtedly continue.

Born in New Jersey, Carlos has always been a compassionate and selfless individual. In the 1990s, Carlos dropped out of high school to help support his single mother by working at baseball-memorabilia shows. This is who Carlos is, a person always willing to step up for his loved ones and community.

Carlos was eventually encouraged by mentors to pursue higher education, which led him to Brown University in the Fall of 1996. He graduated from Brown in 2000 with a bachelor's degree in international relations and later, from the London School of Economics with a master's degree in 2004.

Carlos has spent his career giving back to the communities that put him on his path to success. In 2008, he became the CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Essex, Hudson, and Union Counties in New Jersey. Under his leadership, the organization went from serving approximately 100 youth in the community to serving more than 1,100 within four years.

Carlos returned to Brown University in 2015 to begin his service with the Brown University Alumni Association. He was selected to serve as the chair of the First-Generation and Mentoring Committee in 2017 and later as both the President and the Diversity and Inclusion Chair in 2019.

For the last 2 years, Carlos Lejnieks has greatly contributed to Rhode Island and the extensive Brown University Alumni network. Though his time as President may be ending, his impact at the University, in Rhode Island, throughout New Jersey, and all across this country will continue to be felt.

We look forward to seeing what is next for Carlos and extend to him our sincerest thanks for all he has done for our alma mater.

# RECOGNIZING GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS'S WOMEN'S HOCKEY NCAA DIII CHAMPIONSHIP

## HON. BRAD FINSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Mr. FINSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2023 NCAA DIII Women's Hockey Champions: the Gustavus Adolphus Gusties from St. Peter, Minnesota.

Last week, the team won their first-ever national title in Amherst, Massachusetts in a triple-overtime match. The Gusties claimed the win with a 2–1 final score.

The championship game lasted more than 101 minutes, setting a record for the longest title game in NCAA DIII history. The Gusties' win marks the first NCAA title for a women's hockey team in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, and the first for any team in the West region.

The team has been nothing but impressive all season, winning every major title and breaking a program record for wins in a season with a record of 27–3–0.

The national title is the first for Gusties Head Coach Mike Carroll, who currently ranks as Minnesota's second-winningest college hockey coach, with 492 total career wins.

It is my honor to recognize this year's NCAA DIII Women's Hockey Champions today. Thanks to the tireless leadership and encouragement from Coach Carroll, the team's staff, families, classmates, and community—these talented young women earned a state championship title and all of us across the First Congressional District are incredibly proud to call them our own.

Congratulations to Coach Carroll and his team on an unbelievable season.

# INTRODUCTION OF THE REBUILDING THE UNITED STATES-FLAG INTERNATIONAL FLEET ACT

## HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the bipartisan "Rebuilding the United States-Flag International Fleet Act". This comprehensive legislation would help to recapitalize the U.S.-flag international fleet of ocean-going, commercial vessels by guaranteeing government cargo during peacetime so that U.S.-flag vessels are available during wartime or emergencies.

The United States has the world's most capable navy able to operate in all five oceans, and we need an equally impressive fleet of commercial cargo vessels crewed by American mariners. For too long, Congress and both Democratic and Republican presidents have allowed the commercial fleet of U.S.-flagged, ocean-going vessels to dwindle. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics, the number of ocean-going U.S.-flagged vessels has declined more than 75 percent since 1985, following the 1982 treaty called the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

The global supply chain crunch during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Russian invasion and blockade of Ukraine, and the People's Republic of China's island building in the South China Sea and saber-rattling in the Taiwan Strait have shown that the United States cannot remain reliant on foreign vessels flying flags of convenience.

The "Rebuilding the United States-Flag International Fleet Act" offers Congress the chance to enact the first comprehensive reform of cargo preference laws in decades. Our legislation incorporates recommendations for the Maritime Administration from the Government Accountability Office's report published on September 14, 2022, entitled "Actions Needed to Enhance Cargo Preference Oversight."

Mr. Speaker, I urge all members of the House to join me in cosponsoring this critical legislation to address this crisis facing the U.S.-flag international fleet.

# TRIBUTE TO RABBI DENISE L. EGER

## HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rabbi Denise L. Eger, who is retiring from her duties as Senior Rabbi of Congregation Kol Ami of West Hollywood.

Raised in Memphis, Tennessee, Denise taught religious school and was active in her synagogue as a teen. Although she studied opera and originally intended to be a voice major in college, Denise opted for a career in the religious field, receiving a Bachelor's Degree in Religion from the University of Southern California and a Master's Degree from Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion. She was ordained a Reform Rabbi in 1988, obtained her Doctor of Divinity from Hebrew Union College in 2013 and was awarded an honorary degree in 2022 as a Doctor of Philosophy from Ben Gurion University of the Negev.

A social justice pioneer, Rabbi Eger has had many "firsts." She served as the first openly gay person and first woman as President of the Board of Rabbis of Southern California, and officiated at the first legal wedding of a lesbian couple in California in 2008. Denise was the first openly lesbian or gay President of the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR), the largest and oldest rabbinical organization in North America, and had an integral role in passing CCAR's March 2000 resolution in support of rabbis to officiate lesbian and gay commitment ceremonies. She was a founding President of the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Interfaith Clergy Association and served on the boards of Equality for All/No on Prop 8 and the No On Knight/No on Proposition 22 Campaign, which fought against anti-same-sex marriage ballot initiatives. Believing that activism is a significant duty of her rabbinate, she has worked extensively with persons with AIDS, serving as a past Chair of the Spiritual Advisory Committee of AIDS Project Los Angeles and facilitating an HIV+ support group for over 30 years.

Rabbi Eger has received numerous accolades for her fierce commitment and tireless